

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5982

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AFETR PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 1588

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN MARR TK

SUBJ: TURKS AND CAICOS: GOVERNOR'S COURTESY CALL

1. A. G. MITCHELL, THE GOVERNOR OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS VISITED NASSAU ON AUGUST 29 AND CALLED ON DCM WHO SERVES AS GOVERNOR'S PRIMARY US GOVT CONTACT. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, DCM EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO VISIT THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND SAID SHE HOPED TO DO SO SOON. MITCHELL THOUGHT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AND WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS EXISTING US DEFENSE AGREEMENT. MITCHELL SAID HE KNEW THAT PRESENT AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 1977. HE BELIEVED THE EARLIER TALKS ON LOCAL LEVELS WERE STARTED, THE BETTER.

2. MITCHELL DID NOT INDICATE WHY HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO INITIATE TALKS AND HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH MAY HAVE ARISEN WHICH NEED CONSIDERATION NOW. RECORDS OF PREVIOUS TALKS SUGGEST THAT TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDERS UNHAPPY WITH QUID UNDER PRESENT AGREEMENT, BUT THERE IS NO SUGGESTION THAT MITCHELL SAW FUTURE DCM VISIT AS MORE THAN OPPORTUNITY TO FAMILIARIZE SELF WITH ISLANDS AND US FACILITIES THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ONE WERE TO BEGIN SPECULATING, UNCLASSIFIED

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IT MAY BE THAT MITCHELL SEES A CHANCE TO LINK NASA'S INTEREST

IN ESTABLISHING A MOBILE LASER RANGING STATION ON GRAND TURK
(SEE STATE 187273) WITH A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT IN
THE HOPE OF MAKING DESIRED ADJUSTMENTS WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

3. DCM DID NOT COMMENT ON MITCHELL'S REMARKS. IF DCM AND
NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER MAKE THE TRIP TO THE ISLANDS, IT WILL
TAKE PLACE NEAR THE END OF OCTOBER AND WILL BE A FAMILIARI-
ZATION TOUR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, BEING KEPT ADVISED
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATIONS OR ANY OTHER BACKGROUND
MATERIAL WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN AVOIDING ANY PITFALLS.
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